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Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 06043 150943 Z

11
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 EB-11

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSR-01 /095 W
---------- 097202
R 150850 Z JUN 73
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7293
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 6043

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRN CPOUS
SUBJECT: VISIT OF AIRLINE REPRESENTATIVE TO PRC

REF: PEKING 284; USDAO HONG KONG 1260 JUNE 73 (NOTAL)

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVERAL AIRLINES SERVING HONG KONG, INCLUDING NORTHWEST AND TWA, VISITED THE PRC MAY 26 TO JUNE 12 AT THE INVITATION OF THE CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE. THE GROUP VISITED CANTON, NANKING, HANGCHOW, SHANGHAI AND PEKING. ACCORDING TO THESE TWO REPS, DURING A MEETING IN PEKING JUNE 8 WITH MA JEN- HUI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CAAC; LUI MING, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, CAAC; AND A HIGH TOURIST OFFICIAL, THE GROUP WAS TOLD THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UK/ BOAC TEAM THEN IN PEKING WERE PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY (AN AGREEMENT WAS ANNOUNCED JUNE 13), THAT TALKS WITH THE JAPANESE WERE AT A STANDSTILL, AND THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF USLO AND PRCLO SHOULD FACILITATE US- PRC TALKS ON A CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT. THE TOURIST OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE CHINESE DID NOT ANTICIPATE A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN TOURISM IN THE NEAR FUTURE. TOURISM, HE SAID, WAS LOOKED UPON NOT AS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUT AS A MEANS OF EDUCATING SELECTED FOREIGN GUESTS ABOUT THE NEW CHINA. THE LEVEL OF TOURISM WAS LIMITED, HE ADDED, BY LACK OF ACCOMMODATIONS, INTERPRETERS, AND GROUND TRANSPORTATION.

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2. THE TWA REP TOLD THE CONGEN THAT AIRPORT SERVICES GENERALLY APPEARED TO BE POOR BUT ADEQUATE. WHEN CAAC OFFICIALS REFERRED TO TWA' S SERVICE TO TAIWAN, THE TWA REP RESPONDED EASILY BY POINTING TO THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, ADDING THAT TIME MAY PROVE THAT TWA ALREADY IS OPERATING WITHIN CHINA. ACCORDING TO THE TWA REP, THE CHINESE RESPONDED IN GOOD HUMOR TO THIS NOVEL APPROACH.
OSBORN

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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